

House Republican Press Release

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No Prescription Drug Coverage? Private Sector Can Help



If you don't have prescription drug insurance coverage and can't afford the medicines you need, several major American pharmaceutical companies may be able to help.

Pfizer Inc., which has research and development facilities in Groton and New London, provides services and programs that help uninsured Americans gain access to its medicines. The company also participates with other firms in programs for those who need help paying for their medications.

One of the programs, *Pfizer Helpful Answers*, provides uninsured Americans, regardless of age or income, with help getting Pfizer medicines for free or at reduced cost. Information is available on-line at www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com or toll-free at 1-866-706-2400.

Some of the benefits available include:

- Free Pfizer medicines for those with the most pressing financial need (families earning \$31,000 or less and individuals earning \$19,000 or less per year).
- Savings averaging 37 percent, and up to 50 percent, off retail price for families earning \$45,000 or less per year.
- Savings averaging 15 percent, and up to 25 percent, off retail price for families earning more than \$45,000 per year.

For persons who do not qualify for Medicare, *Together Rx Access*, a collaboration of 10 pharmaceutical companies, including Pfizer, offers savings on more than 275 medicines to uninsured low-income Americans who meet income and eligibility requirements. More information is available on-line at www.TogetherRxAccess.com or toll-free at 1-800-444-4106.

Pfizer also provides other assistance for Medicare beneficiaries through 24 Medicare-approved drug discount cards that offer qualified low-income members up to a 30-day supply of most Pfizer medicines for a flat \$15 fee. For more information go to www.Medicare.gov or call toll-free at 1-800-MEDICARE.

Another initiative to help qualifying patients who lack prescription drug coverage get the medicines they need through either private or public programs was launched April 5th by American pharmaceutical companies, physicians, nurses, pharmacists and community organizations.

The *Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA)* offers access to more than 275 public and private patient assistance programs (including more than 150 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies) either on-line at www.pparx.org or through a toll-free phone number, 1-888-477-2669.

PPA's mission is to increase awareness of the programs and boost enrollment in them for eligible individuals and families. Several programs that can be accessed through PPA provide help to patients who lack prescription coverage and earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level (about \$19,000 for individuals or \$31,000 for a family of three).

PPA also directs patients to public or private programs that best meet their needs. It helps patients who lack prescription coverage enroll in more than 150 company assistance programs; provides access to more than 1,200 medicines for free or nearly free; and helps people contact government programs for which they may qualify such as Medicaid, Medicare or the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Although government prescription drug assistance helps millions of needy individuals, seniors and families nationwide, there are millions more who do not meet the income guidelines for those programs but who cannot afford the high cost of many medicines.

For those folks, private programs like Together Rx Access can make all the difference in the world.